

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published Every Thursday By The Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.
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GVHC Signs Contract To Sell Vacant Land At Gross Profit Of \$167,500

By Russell Greenbaum

Following approval by the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation board of directors of late changes in the provisions of the contract, the Warner-Kanter Corporation signed the final papers on Monday, May 2, which gave the building concern title to approximately 700 acres of undeveloped land in Greenbelt.

The GVHC board at its regular meeting Friday, April 29, approved the provision which allows Warner-Kanter to share with the Peoples Development Corporation (PDC) the privilege of developing commercially the 16 acres bordering Southway Extended adjacent to the National Guard Armory (on the American Legion Home side) and, in addition, a small tract north of Glenn Dale Road. Originally PDC wanted the exclusive rights to the commercial development of this land.

Actually, Warner-Kanter will only have about 430 acres of the purchased land available for the construction of residential units. The remainder, in addition to the commercial tract, is set aside for park areas to be dedicated to the city, streets, and school sites. At present the company plans to erect about 1700 units, including multiple-type dwellings.

School Construction

Frank Lastner revealed to the board at the Friday meeting that, although Greenbelt was not included in the county's new school construction program for the next fiscal year, the county is aware of the anticipated building program here. He said that if a sudden increase in population here should warrant it, the county has indicated that it will be able to postpone the construction of a school scheduled elsewhere and erect a new school building here.

Contract Provisions

The final contract, which consisted of a total of 40 pages of documents, was so complicated that it was necessary for the board to meet on Sunday, May 1, to give final approval to all the various provisions. The officers of the Greenbelt Land Improvement Corporation handed in their resignations so that Warner-Kanter, which now takes over control of GLIC, could place members of their firm on the GLIC board.

Among the provisions of the contract, it is established that if Warner-Kanter should default on their payments for the land, which have been spread out over a five-year period, the land will return either to PDC, which has first option, or to GVHC. It is also provided that the Greenbelt Community Builders (GCB), promoters of the cooperative developments planned for the vacant land bordering the north side of Crescent, has the option to buy the land for these developments from Warner-Kanter until December 31, 1955. GCB may purchase this land for the maximum price of 160 percent of the original price paid by GVHC and may even be able to buy it for less.

Profit

Ed Burgoon, president of GVHC, pointed out that GVHC will make a profit of about \$150,750 net after paying 10 percent of the gross \$167,500 to PDC in commissions, from land which it did not use a cent of its own money to buy in the first place. (The money for the down payment to buy it from the government was loaned by PDC.) He noted that this was due to the insistence of the membership that GVHC must not be liable for the land.

Burgoon also answered criticism that GVHC should have attempted to obtain bids from other building concerns rather than deal solely with Warner-Kanter. He said that builders in the area considered the Greenbelt land too expensive because of the high proportion set

Men Cook & Serve Mom's Day Dinner

The Fifth Annual Mother's Day Banquet for the ladies of Community Church and their guests will be held this Friday night at 6:30, May 6, in the Church Social Hall. The dinner will be planned, cooked and served by the men of the church and furthermore, the dishes will be washed by the men!

Tickets have been on sale for the past week, and 200 women are expected to attend the affair.

The gala banquet will be presided over by Mrs. Lloyd Clay, President of the Cabinet of Church Women and by Mrs. Ralph Miller, Chairman of the Program Committee. The program will feature songs by a Barber Shoppe Quartette (Messrs. Keeney, Finley, Hufendick and Heise, accompanied by Everitt Whitbeck), Mrs. Margaret Conant of Glenn Dale will speak on "Mental Health Needs and Facilities in our County", and Julia Bailey of Silver Spring, formerly of Greenbelt, will do one of her famous pantomime skits.

Court Of Honor For Boy Scouts

Scout Troop 202 will hold a Court of Honor on Thursday evening, May 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church. This will be a "Family Night" and parents and friends of scouts are invited to witness the Court of Honor recognizing the scouts who have advanced in scouting in the past four months. Guest speaker and master of ceremonies will be Paul Crossen, District Boy Scout Commissioner of Prince Georges County.

A Tenderfoot investiture service will also be conducted by Scoutmaster Mack L. Walden.

aside for park areas. He felt that we were fortunate to find a builder not only willing to buy the land at a profit to us but willing to adhere to the Greenbelt master plan, which sets rigid restrictions for building and laying out the sites of homes.

Building Plans

The most probable area where construction will begin is the former site of the Green Valley Homes development opposite St. Hugh's. Up to 200 homes can be built there and tied in with our present sewage and water facilities. Another 200 homes can be handled by the present sewage plant by adding equipment costing between \$10-12,000. Pending installation of additional lines by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Warner-Kanter may also build some homes near the American Legion Home and install their own lines which would later be taken over by Washington Suburban.

All voting by the GVHC board on the land contract and various aspects of the land deal was 8-1, with Al Long as the lone dissenter.

The Warner-Kanter Corporation, builder of the "Brookhaven" home in Wheaton, was originally introduced to GVHC by the Sidney Z. Mensch Realty Co. Robert Garin of 3-G Plateau, a Mensch representative, participated in the earlier stages of the negotiation leading to the final arrangements.

What Goes On

Thursday, May 5 - Joint Committee meeting, TROOP 202, Fellowship Hall, Community Church. All parents urged to attend.

Friday, May 6 - DUPLICATE BRIDGE TOURNAMENT, Center school 8:30 p.m. BEGINNERS' FIRST AID CLASS meets to start nine week course 8 to 10 p.m. First annual concert HIGH POINT HIGH GLEE CLUBS 8 p.m. in school cafeteria.

MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET at Community Church at 6:30 p.m. in Church Social Hall.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION, North End and Center Schools. LITTLE LEAGUE RALLY, 8:30 p.m. at Center School.

ST. HUGH'S TEEN CLUB dance at school hall 8-11 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 - GCS SOCIAL FOR NEW RESIDENTS at 8 p.m. in social room of Community Center.

OPENING DAY at McDonald Field, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, May 9 - GREENBELT COMMUNITY BAND Spring Concert at 8 p.m. in the Center school.

Tuesday, May 10 - PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS public hearing 1:30 p.m. at County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro.

Tuesday, May 10 - GREENBELT GARDEN CLUB meets 8:30 p.m. in social room Center school.

Wednesday, May 11 - NEWS REVIEW MAKE UP at Betty Cross', 34-D Ridge 9 p.m. All staff members welcome.

Thursday, May 12 - SCOUT TROOP 202 COURT OF HONOR at 7:30 p.m. at Community Church. Friends and parents invited. Refreshments.

Friday, May 13 - CHILDREN'S SQUARE DANCE by Greenbelt Community Band at 7:30 p.m. in Community building. Admission 30 cents.

Monday, May 16 - CITY Council meets above Variety Store 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17 - ST. HUGH'S annual bazaar.

Wednesday, May 18 - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS meeting at Hertz, 45-T Ridge.

Friday, May 27 - Poppy sale by LEGION AUXILIARY.

Guest Minister At Mom's Day Service

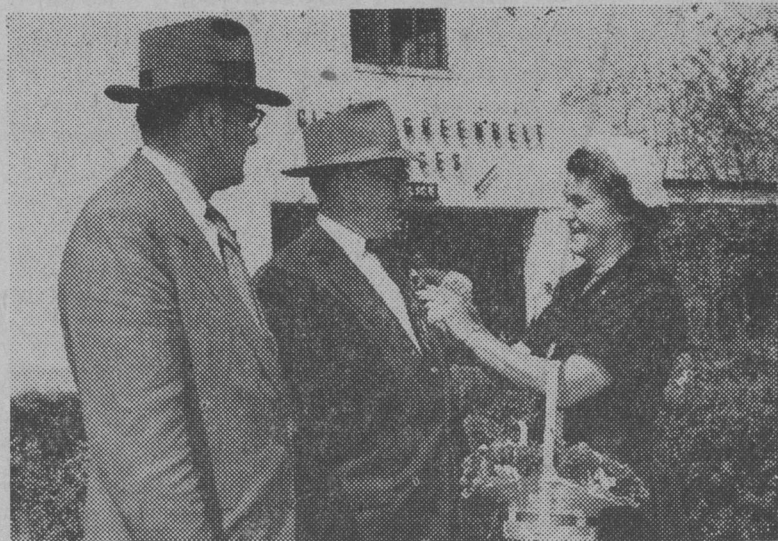
Rev. Herbert Lockyer, Jr., of Chicago, will be the guest minister at the Mother's Day morning worship service of the Greenbelt Baptist Chapel. The service which begins at 11 a.m. is held in the Center school auditorium.

Mr. Lockyer was born in Scotland and came to the United States to receive his theological training. He is a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago where he now serves as Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association. He received his Bachelor of Theology degree from the Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago and has studied at Loyola University for his master's degree.

OPENING DAY

A Little League Rally will be held Friday, 8:30 p.m. in the Community building. The rally will take place on the eve of "opening day" ceremonies to be held at McDonald Field, Saturday at 1:30 p.m. A parade will start at 11 a.m. Saturday morning.

Mayor & City Manager Get Poppies



(Photo by Kasko)

Mrs. Frank A. Nunnary, Rehabilitation Chairman of the Greenbelt American Legion Auxiliary 136, pinned the first poppies on the coats of Mayor Wolfe and City Manager McDonald, in ceremonies held before a large gathering of interested spectators, in front of the City Hall on Saturday, April 30.

This public presentation of the first poppies was made to the city leaders in order to remind local residents of the poppy sale to be held here in Greenbelt on Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28, by the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary.

Both the Mayor and City Manager made contributions for the poppies they received.

Mayor Promises Continued Library Services In "Battle Of The Books"

By I. J. Parker

Greenbelt will have a library after July 1, but whether the county or city operates it is still in doubt. Assurance of continued operation was made by Mayor James Wolfe at the city council meeting last Monday night, following a barrage of statements by council members and city manager Charles McDonald regarding the library snafu.

The "battle of the books" began last Thursday night when the News Review printed a "scoop" news story which revealed that the county library board had decided not to include the local library into the county system because of lack of funds from the county commissioners. The council and city manager first heard of this decision through the newspaper.

McDonald finally received a letter from Grace Gosnell, chairman of the library board, he admitted, and negotiations between him, the board and the county commissioners are taking place now to solve the problem. He refused to comment on the situation, however. Mayor James Wolfe declared: "As far as the city is concerned, we are still going into the county system."

"Politics"

Councilman James Smith called the situation a result of "politics" and asserted that the county library board is a governor-appointed body that is trying to embarrass the county commissioners. "There is more to this than meets the eye," Smith said. He pointed out that the citizens of Greenbelt participate in taxes that go for library service and it is possible to force the library board to provide a community library. He assured citizens that appropriate pressures—"needling"—is being applied by city officials.

Councilman Ben Goldfaden declared that the library board is using Greenbelt as a "football" to pressure the commissioners.

More Pressure

Some of the blame for the predicament was placed on citizen "pressure" by councilman Thomas Canning. He regretted that several citizens in town were usurping the council's job by conducting unofficial negotiations and discussions with county authorities. "Most unfortunate," he said.

The News Review was scolded by Smith for what he considered an inaccurate statement in the paper which declared that a large segment of the community opposed the move to integrate the library with the county at the public budget hearing. McDonald expressed his regret at the newspaper's articles on the library, and declared that Rev. Hull had informed him that Hull had been misquoted in a story last week. (Ed. note: Smith's remarks referred to a letter to the editor by Mrs. Gene McCarthy. Rev. Hull informed us he does not feel he was misquoted.)

Discussion of the library had not been included on the agenda of last Monday's meeting, but was prompted by a citizen's request for the latest developments on the library problem.

GCS Plans Welcome For New Residents

New residents of Greenbelt will be greeted by Greenbelt Consumer Services at a social gathering to be held Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Social Room of the Community Center.

On hand to welcome the new town residents will be City Manager Charles T. McDonald, representing the City Council, Walter Bierwagen, President of GCS, and members of the GCS Board.

Ellen Linson, County Recreation Director, will lead part of the program. A new color film depicting the Cooperative movement as helping individual recognition and based on individual importance and worth will be shown.

Mrs. Carrie Harper will be in charge of refreshments. A door prize will be offered to the holder of a lucky ticket. The program is under the chairmanship of Albert Herling.

Such "welcome to Greenbelt" parties will be held at regular intervals every few months.

Room For More 13's On BRL Ball Teams

Last Saturday's sunny morning found 54 boys at Braden Field answering the first call for Co-op Babe Ruth League try-outs. Quite a few were 14 and 15 year old "vets," while only twelve 13 year oldsters showed up. Since there are exactly 20 vacancies for 13 year olds on the four Co-op teams the turnout was slightly disappointing. Come on out you Little League grads.

Last year's runner-up Co-op Drug Store nine is hard hit by "graduation." Catcher Mike Canning and second sacker Carroll "K" Barcus, Captain and Co-captain, respectively, are too old to compete this season as are pitcher Edwin Link, John Riley and Hughie Burns.

Moving up to the older bracket as a steadying nucleus will be shortstopper Bob Canning, second-sacker Eric "Bud" Moore, Dick Bragonje, Dennis Murray and the slugging firstsacker, Kenny Reamy. Also returning are Chuck Clark, Earl Doss, Bobby Oring, Mike Fleshman and the everhustling Tommy Iveson.

This team, as well as the other three, are counting on new 13 year old candidates to round out their 1955 rosters. Next practice will be held at Braden Field 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 14.



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Vol. 19

Thursday, May 5, 1955

No. 39

County Library Budget

Last week the Prince Georges County Library Board of Trustees announced that, due to budget cuts by the County Commissioners, the Greenbelt Library cannot be integrated into the county system on July 1. In January the Board requested \$251,680 for the fiscal year for the county library system. The County Commissioners granted \$150,000; less than \$8,000 more than this year. Controversy arises as to whether the \$8,000 increase would cover present county services and still provide for the inclusion of Greenbelt.

The public has had few details on county library budget and services. Since this lack of facts has aided the confusion, the News Review considers it a duty to present data to help its readers understand the problem. Source: the Prince Georges County Memorial Library budget request, 1955-56.

This comparison with nearby counties here printed in part appears in the budget request:

TABLE I STATISTICS FROM NEARBY COUNTIES

For purposes of comparison the following table lists several counties of similar size and social character giving data for the last fiscal year.

	Estimated Population	Per Capita Support	Books per Capita	Per Capita Loan of Operating books	Per Library
Baltimore	340,000	\$.70	.42	1.90	1948
Montgomery	250,000	1.11	.70	5.20	1951
Annapolis & Anne Arundel	145,000	.59	.28	2.17	1946
Arlington	150,000	1.46	.66	4.77	1934
Fairfax	150,000	.60	.33	1.25	1938
Prince George's	257,000	.47	.23	.86	1947

The American Library Association minimum standard expenditure for public libraries is \$1.50 per capita. During 1954-55 per capita expenditure in Prince Georges County increased from \$.47 to \$.60. If the present appropriation stands, with the estimated increase in population to 301,000, per capita expenditure in 1955-56 will fall to \$.59. A decrease of \$.01 seems minor, but rising costs of books, supplies and services decrease the purchasing power far more than the figure indicates. For instance, bookmobile costs have risen unexpectedly, increments are due 35 employees, money for annual leave and substitutes must be set aside. Even to maintain service at the present level, an increase in expenditures is necessary, says the library board.

Budget proposals included: 1. More hours of service in 5 branches, 2. Bookmobile service to 4 additional rural consolidated schools (serving twice as many children in rural areas), 3. Increasing the book collection from .28 to .33 per capita (Library Association standard, 1.5 per capita), 4. Equalizing beginning salaries with other county departments (disregards higher salary scales among neighboring county systems and in the city of Greenbelt), 5. Reinstating free reserve service, 6. Providing an administrative office, 7. Integrating the Greenbelt Library into the county system. Approximately \$18,000 was requested for this move; this money to effect necessary changes in cataloging, processing, and charging of each book in the Greenbelt collection; and for rebinding and replacing books worn by years of heavy circulation. A generous book budget was provided in an attempt to give Greenbelt improved rather than decreased service.

Besides extensions of service, the growing county population creates heavier demands on present library service. In an attempt to meet this the budget proposed 16 new jobs.

The budget cut, says the Library Board, will eliminate not only the Greenbelt Branch but most of the other projected improvements. The cut will make it difficult for the Board to maintain present services and prevents improvement of the library system this year.

THE SCHOOL CORNER

By Joan Dickerson

At Center and North End Schools on Friday, May 6, registration will be held for pupils who will enter first grade in September 1955. A child must be six prior to January 1, 1955 in order to be eligible for first grade in September 1955.

The following papers should be brought for all children being registered: Birth Certificate, Vaccination Certificate, Certificate of Immunization against Diphtheria.

Spring must be here! So many classes are going on field trips. On Thursday, April 14, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Kornetsky's, and Mr.

O'Loughlin's classes took a trip to the Smithsonian Institute.

In Mrs. Yeager's and Mrs. Byers' 2nd-3rd grade combination the boys and girls have been studying food—where it grows, how it is made and used. On Friday, April 15, these two classes took a trip to the Schneider Bakery Company where they went through the bakery.

On Tuesday, April 19, the 6th grade of Mr. Cyril Kovalchik went on an especially interesting trip to the Capitol. Instead of having the usual tour the boys and girls had as their special guide, Mr. Hickey, Journal Clerk for the

See SCHOOL CORNER, Page 4

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By Marian Hatton - 3251

Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Oney Lipscomb, 36-D Ridge who will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary on May 6, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. David Skolnik of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, will be down visiting their son Al and his family over the weekend.

Rachelle Greenbaum is recovering nicely from a tonsillectomy performed on April 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rosenzweig, 4-E Crescent, will celebrate their son Ira's Bar-Mitzvah on Saturday May 7. The affair will be held in the JCC Building.

Make a note of the new phone number of Isadore J. Parker, 45-J Ridge. It's now GR 4-8922.

Mother's Day will be a festive occasion for the families who have children in the JCC Sunday School. The families will gather at the Lake for a picnic on Sunday.

Visiting the Ben Perelzweig family, 6-E Hillside, overnight last Thursday were Frieda's cousin Frances, her husband David and their two children Eric and Ira. They were en route from Florida to their home in Long Island.

We Hattons deserted 45-E Ridge today for Pennsylvania to visit Art's family over the weekend and greet old friends on Alumni Day at Trenton State Teachers College.

In my absence next week's column will be made up by my able helper Elaine Skolnik. Call your news in to her at 7586 before Tuesday evening.

Happy birthday to Barbara Skolnik who will be seven years old on May 7.

Congratulations to Rhona Tratler who was just re-elected President of the Women's Press Club at the University of Maryland. (With all those offices when do you get time to study, Rhona?)

Several members of American Legion Post 136 who are members of the 40 & 8 are looking forward to the big "Week" at Laurel this month.

Mrs. Jo' Griffin was the guest of honor at a birthday luncheon Tuesday, April 26 at the home of Edna Benefiel. The table was beautifully decorated in green and yellow with a huge birthday cake as the centerpiece. Other guests were Miss Adelaide Arrington, Mrs. Ruth Beecher, Mrs. Betty Tomek, and Mrs. Leola Pearson, former co-workers of the hostess in ARS.

The person who lost a pair of eyeglasses with heavy lenses and medium weight tortoise shell frames in the 45 Court of Ridge can claim them at the Parkers'—45-J Ridge.

Very glad to hear that Mrs. Florence Bloom is now at home recuperating from a minor operation. She reports that she feels fine. The Blooms recently moved to 309 Bolton St., Silver Spring from Greenbelt.

Congratulations to the members of the Legion Auxiliary for the beautiful decorations at the Spring Dance.

Our condolences to Mrs. Alan Kistler, 7-B Crescent, who lost her mother, Mrs. Mary Connolly on April 8. Mrs. Kistler and her son Kevin, 5, returned from Pittsburgh, Pa. on April 29.

Did you know that the News Review is sent free of charge to any Greenbelt resident who is in the Service? Contact Muriel Burrows—4821—and she'll see that your serviceman gets the paper. Also, be sure to notify her when the address is changed.

On April 27 Larry and Lee Fink, 20-D Ridge had a delightful party for their friends to celebrate their sons' birthdays. Walter was 13

and Robert 11 on April 27 and 28. Happy birthday to you both!

Greenbelt Post 136 of the American Legion will honor all Post Commanders and charter members with a big affair at the local Post Home on June 16, 1955. This is on a Thursday and all who are eligible should keep the date in mind. Commander Chapman is now appointing his committees to handle the affair.

If you folks get downtown in the near future look at the display in the Hecht Company windows. A Master Plan of Parks map and a scale model of a recreation center made by Art Hatton are on display in one of the store windows in connection with the Industrial Fair.

Methodist Church

North End School

Stanley F. Knock, Jr., Minister
42-L Ridge - Phone 9410

Sunday, May 8 - 9:30 a.m., Sunday School Service. Classes for all ages. Mr. Herbert Irvin, Superintendent. 11 a.m., morning worship conducted by Rev. Knock. The sermon is entitled "By What Measure?" A nursery is provided for smaller children.

Sunday, May 8 - 6 p.m., MYF meets at Mrs. Bailey's, 21-P Ridge Monday, May 9 - 8 p.m., Official Board meets Room 225, Center school.

Thursday, May 12 - Choir rehearsal, Room 122, Center school. The first half hour is open to the congregation for a general hymn sing.

Catholic Church

Rev. Victor J. Dowgiallo, Pastor
GR. 3-5911

May 6: First Friday of month. Mass at 7 a.m., followed by devotions in honor of the Sacred Heart. Holy Communion distributed before and during the Mass.

Saturday: Confessions in the afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 for children and in the evening from 7 to 9 for adults.

Sunday: Masses: 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 77 children will receive First Holy Communion at the 8:30 Mass. Parents and relatives only are to attend this Mass. Children not in the First Communion class are asked to attend either the 7:30 or 9:30 Mass this Sunday only. There is no instruction class today. Holy Communion Sunday for the Holy Name men at 7:30 Mass.

Baptisms: Sunday, 1 p.m. Please contact Father Dowgiallo beforehand.

Wednesday: Miraculous Medal Novena at 8 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Monthly meeting of the Holy Name Society at 8:30 p.m., with election of officers for coming year.

Lutheran Church

Edward H. Birner, Pastor
Phone: GRanite 4-9200

Sunday, May 8: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School and adult Bible Class. Classes are held for all age groups. Raymond Carriere, superintendent. 8:30 and 11 a.m., Church Services with the celebration of Holy Communion. Sermon subject on the Christian Family by Pastor Birner. Visitors are always welcome. A nursery is maintained for the benefit of parents with small children.

Monday, May 9: 8 p.m., Sunday School teachers meet at the church.

Thursday, May 12: 8 p.m., Church Council meets at the church.

Hebrew Services

Friday night, 8 p.m. at JCC Building. Candlelighting time 7:30 p.m. Saturday morning at 9 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rosenzweig invite all to join them at the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ira. Please be prompt.

Community Church

Ministers

Eric T. Braund, Robert C. Hull
Secretary and Minister of Music

A. Elizabeth Goetze

Phone GRanite 3-5846

Friday, May 6: 6:30 p.m., Mother's Day Dinner, Social Hall. Saturday, May 7: Morning, Painting Bee at 2-A Hillside.

Sunday, May 8: Morning Worship at 9 and 11; Mother's Day, Mr. Braund preaching: "Salute to Mothers."

Church School as follows: 9 and 11, Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary; 10, Junior, Junior and Senior High, College Age, Adults. 6 and 7, Junior and Senior High Fellowship. 8 p.m., Board of Deacons Meeting, Social Hall.

Monday, May 9: 8 p.m., Evening Guild, Social Hall.

Thursday, May 12: 8 p.m., Boy Scout Court of Honor, Social Hall.

Baptist Chapel

Center School

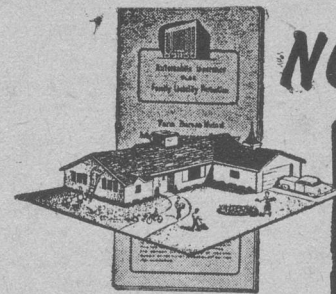
Glenn W. Samuelson, Pastor

4-E Hillside - GRanite 4-9242

Friday, May 6 - 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visitation program.

Sunday, May 1 - 9:45 a.m., Sunday school. Mr. John S. Stewart, Jr., Superintendent. Classes for all ages. Nursery is maintained for crib babies and toddlers at all Sunday services. Visitors are cordially welcome. 11 a.m., Morning worship in the auditorium. Guest preacher, Rev. Herbert Lockyer, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Training Union for all ages. Mrs. John S. Stewart, Jr., Director. 7 p.m., Evening worship. Informal hymn singing and sermon by the pastor entitled "The Secret of Success" based on Matthew 6:33, 34.

Thursday, May 12 - 7:30 p.m., Midweek service at the Parsonage. Informal hymn singing, devotional thought, prayer and instruction in "Making the Visitation Program Effective." 8:30 Choir rehearsal.



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HELP WANTED: Need Extra Money? Become an advertising representative for our paper. We offer 15% commission. Call 5801 or come down to the office Tuesday evening. (9 Parkway.)

IF YOU DON'T FIND your News Review on your doorstep Thursday nite when your neighbors have theirs, PLEASE phone Jim O'Neill, our circulation manager, at 2436 Parkway. GR. 3-6141.

SEVERAL GIRLS to address, mail postcards. Spare time every week. Write Box 161, Belmont, Mass.

DEPENDABLE RIDE WANTED vicinity Connecticut and H 8:45 and 5:30. Please call Mel Pehl GR. 3-4533 or ST 3-6400 Ext. 2560.

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VOICE TEACHER: Ilsa Krause, Mezzo soprano. Beginners accepted. For appointment call WA. 7-7865.

WANTED: New sitter pool members. Call Jeanette Zubkoff, 5801.

GARDEN CLUB

The Greenbelt Garden Club will meet in the social room of the Center school at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10. A. A. Duncan of the Agriculture Extension service of the University of Maryland will be on hand with a motion picture "A Miracle in the Making." This picture shows the effects of proper fertilization. He will also give a talk on vegetable garden crops. A talk on lawn development and care is also planned.

Commissioner Frank Lastner Describes County Budget In Exclusive Interview

By Alan Kistler

County Commissioner Frank Lastner, in an interview last weekend with the *Greenbelt News Review*, described the budget recently adopted by Prince Georges Commissioners for fiscal year 1955-56 as necessary and realistic.

Record Budget

Taking note of the fact that the \$21,964,612.08 budget and its accompanying \$2.15 real estate tax rate were the highest in Prince George's history, Lastner stated that he considered the reasons for adopting such a high budget and tax rate of greater importance than the mere fact of their being high.

Principal factor underlying the record budget is the unprecedented increase in the County population, Lastner declared, pointing to the fact that the County had grown from 267,000 to 301,000 persons in two years. "And everything indicates that this rate of increase is not going to slacken off for some time to come," the former Greenbelt Mayor added.

"It is a matter of simple arithmetic," he said, "that more people require more services and more services require more money . . . that's the simple explanation of the large budget."

Library Budget

When asked about the controversial County Library appropriation, Lastner vigorously defended the Commissioner's action. "I don't believe we can be accused of being unfair to the library," he asserted. The questions concerning the proposed merger of the Greenbelt Library and the County library system Lastner replied that despite claims to the contrary, "it is a fact that the amount appropriated is sufficient for the integration of the Greenbelt Library into the County system . . . if I believed otherwise, I would have fought to grant more money . . ."

Referred to the announcement by County Library Board President Grace Gosnell, which appeared exclusively in last week's issue of the *Greenbelt News Review*, that the amount appropriated by the Commissioners would not permit the inclusion of the Greenbelt Library, Lastner suggested everyone "look at this thing a little closer."

The Commissioner challenged some of the figures in the original budget request submitted by the County Memorial Library. Specifically he questioned a \$5,500 figure listed for new books for Greenbelt Library and an \$1800 item for binding for the Greenbelt library.

The former figure, he stated, was more than double any sum he could recall having been spent for books by the Greenbelt Library after the initial year. The latter amount, he said, was almost as much money as was spent by all the public library branches in the county last year.

"Are our books in that bad condition?", he asked. "Have the people of Greenbelt been that abusive in their treatment of library books? Have our librarians been so derelict in their duty that it will take almost as much money to put our books in shape as was spent throughout the entire county last year?"

It was obvious that the Commissioner felt the answer to those questions was a negative one.

Discussing the appropriation for the County Library, Lastner declared that in reality the additional amount allotted over last year's grant was more than the apparent \$8,000 increase. This is due, he said, to the fact that the previous year's appropriation had included a \$24,000 sum for the purchase of books for a newly opened library at Forest Heights. "That is a non-recurring expense item," he explained and added, "But we did not . . . take that away from the budget. We allowed that much to remain in." For this reason, he stated emphatically, the appropriation is more than adequate to meet the additional cost of including the Greenbelt Library in the County Library system.

Lastner also revealed that virtually every Department of the County government had received less than it had requested, except that in the case of fixed fees and bond redemptions the departmental

liens were automatically honored. Had the Commissioners accepted the budget requests as submitted, the 1955-56 County budget would have been almost three quarters of a million dollars larger than the record-breaking one adopted!

School Budget

The bonded indebtedness of the County for school purposes is about twenty three million dollars at present, Lastner reported, and will reach approximately twenty-nine million dollars if the school budget presented to the Commissioners a few days ago is adopted. A little under two million dollars has been requested of the Federal government for school construction in addition to these figures, he added.

To keep pace with the growing school population, the County has under construction 55 elementary and 89 secondary class rooms, the Commissioner said. To this will be added 149 new classrooms if the School Board Budget meets with the Commissioners' approval. These will represent rooms in a new junior high school seven new elementary schools, and additions to three high schools and four elementary schools. Funds for acquisition of new sites are included in the six million figure, he said.

Lastner revealed that the County Commissioners had set up a special committee to make an intensive study of the salary and wage structure existing in the County government in order to place these on a rational basis and remove existing inequities.

Innovations

He also indicated that he had suggested and had obtained agreement that new school buildings would have library facilities so arranged that they would be accessible to the general public as well as to students. The same principle would be used to make playground facilities available to the general public.

Another innovation he has suggested, he stated, is the integration of the public health nursing service and the school nurse program in order to utilize professional talent more fully than at present.

Concluding the interview, Commissioner Lastner expressed his belief that all Departments of the County Government should be motivated by a cooperative rather than competitive spirit. "All of us who represent the people of this County have an obligation to work to improve the services as a whole . . . we have no right to allow ourselves to look upon our department . . . as an isolated unit."

Asked if there had been some criticism of the Commissioners for denying various departments of the County a greater amount, Lastner replied, "Yes, there has been and I suppose as long as there are public offices and citizens, there will be criticism; criticism is one of the features of our democratic system, you know. It's a form of public control. And I'm all for it."

1st Spring Concert Announced by Band

By Vincent Caruso

The Greenbelt Community Band is preparing for its first spring concert of the year, to be held Monday evening May 9 in the Center School at 8 p.m.

One of the striking features of the program will be two young outstanding musicians from this vicinity. The Greenbelt Community Band has been in operation since 1940 and is considered one of the most successful bands in this area. This is attested to by the fact that many of the former members have continued their musical careers by playing in high school, college, military and navy bands.

Admission to all Band concerts, under the direction of the City Recreation Department, is free.

May 5, 1955

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

Three

APOLOGIES

Last week a letter to the editor entitled "County Library" appeared on page 3 of this newspaper. Inadvertently, the name of the writer was omitted. We hasten to point out, therefore, that this letter was written by Mrs. Gene McCarthy, 6-J Ridge Rd. Our apologies to Mrs. McCarthy and to our readers for this grievous error.

The Editor.

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SCHOOL CORNER from p. 2
United States Senate. One of the biggest thrills for the class was the opportunity to actually be on the floor of the Senate before it convened. The group had the opportunity to go into the Senators' Retiring Room where they saw the news ticker tape. After a tour of the Capitol the boys and girls sat in the gallery of the Senate while Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois gave a speech on water rights in Colorado.

The City of Greenbelt has moved a play ground which was formerly near the Lakeside lots up to the Center School. There are swings, a slide, and teeter totters for the boys and girls to use and enjoy during play periods.

Wednesday, May 4, is Play Day at Center School. On Play Day the

boys and girls are outside all day and come inside only for recess.

North End School is having their Spring Festival on the evenings of May 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Pickart, the music teacher, has been helping the teachers and students prepare their "Story Book Symphony."

Ralph Behrens from Greenbelt Junior High School reported the news from his school.

The April 13 P.T.A. meeting at the junior high school had a panel discussion on "The Standards of Conduct of Junior High Students of the Greenbelt Area."

On May 6, the Junior and Senior High Glee Clubs of High Point High School are giving their First Annual Spring Concert under the direction of Mrs. Claire Heiss and Miss Peggy Topping.

G. V. H. C.

Quarterly Annual Meeting

Monday - May 16 - 8:15 P.M.

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